

**A DISCOURSE ANALYSIS  
OF *THE GIRLS IN THEIR SUMMER DRESSES*' SHORT STORY  
BY IRWIN SHAW**



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**Abstract**

*This research paper is aimed at identifying the seven criteria of textuality which make a short story of "The Girl in Their Summer Dresses" is a discourse. According to the background, this research is conducted to answer the research problems statement, what the meaning of element of textuality found in the short story by Irwin Shaw are.*

*The research is descriptive qualitative research. In collecting data, the writer employs documentation with classifying the data based on seven criteria of textuality. The writer analyzes the discourse in the short story using the data short story itself as primary and secondary data.*

*The results of this study show that all the types of cohesion used in "The Girls in Their Summer Dresses" are anaphoric reference and cataphoric reference refer to the meaning often appear "Michael and Frances". Then nominal substitution refers to the object "same", verbal substitution refers to the object "do", and clausal substitution refers to the object "not". In nominal ellipsis refers to the meaning "the story", verbal ellipsis refers to the meaning "speaking", clausal ellipsis refers to the meaning "I look at woman". Besides, additive conjunction refers to the object of "and", clausal conjunction refers to the object "because", temporal conjunction refers to the object "toward", adversative conjunction refers to the object "even though". The lexical cohesion is consist of repetition refers to the object often appear "the sun" and "and". Synonym refers to the object "a planned and a programmed", hyponym refers to the object "the girls in the office", metonymy refers to the object "seven blocks", antonym refers to the object "woman and man", and collocation refers to the meaning "the Metropolitan Museum of Art". Thus, another six criteria of textuality: coherence, intentionality, informativity, acceptability, situationality, and intertextuality are use to make The Girls in Their Summer Dresses' short story is as a discourse.*

**Key word:** discourse, analysis, seven criteria of textuality.

**A. INTRODUCTION**

Language is the most important tools of communication. It is needed by all people in the world. As Halliday (1985:xvii) states that "language is a system for

making meanings: a semantic system, with other systems for encoding the meanings it produces.” There are two types of language that are used by human beings as a means of communication, spoken and written language. A spoken language is in the forms of conversation, speech, dialogue, etc. While written language is reflected in the forms of newspaper, magazine, short story, and novel.

Short story is one form of communication. A short story is writing language which most people are interested in. The theme of varies does not only love theme but also theme of legend, struggle, war, fiction, and experience. In addition, there are many title of story from all over the world and one of them is *The Girls in Their Summer Dresses’ Short Story by Irwin Shaw*.

Short story is one form of communication and the kinds of text which can be studied by using discourse (Mulyati, 2004:1). To understand a discourse needs to a study about the context (knowledge of situation). The message is referred to the discourse has to be acceptable and does not cause a missing interpretation. In this case, the effort comprehends of meaning or message, utterance in text, context and situation required a discourse analysis. Thus, in discourse analysis, language is the source of meaning emerging pursuant to the context in society. According Yule (2006:124) the discourse analysis is:

When we carry this investigation further and ask how we make sense of what we read, how we can recognize well-constructed texts as opposed to those that are jumbled or incoherent, how we understand speakers who communicate more than they say, and how we successfully take part in that complex activity called conversation, we are undertaking what is known as discourse analysis.

To understand text of that short story, it is very important to study about formal aspect. de Beaugrande in Renkema (1993:34) states that the discourse analysis in a study is focused on cohesion and coherence and other criteria of textuality such as intentionality, acceptability, informatively, situationality, and intertextuality.

Therefore, we understand well how the text flows. It is proved by the fact when short story is available. This is one of an example using coherence in element of textuality in *The Girls in their Summer Dresses’ short story*:

**Her (Par. 47)**

...**Frances** said, playing with **her** brandy... (**Line 102**)

The interpretation of the word *her* ties with the word *Frances* in the sentence. The form of the word *her* refers backward to the word *Frances*, so this is called anaphoric reference relationship. The word *her* is closest in meaning to the word *Frances* and the word *her* is mentioned after the word *Frances*.

Considering the example above, the text is important to conduct this research. The first, *The Girls in their Summer Dresses*' short story by Irwin Shaw is an interesting short story. The second, the seven criteria as standards of textuality will form the text harmony need to be analyzed. The elements to make a discourse will arrange the text harmony with a structure and a semantic function namely cohesion devices. The last, it completely makes sure that cohesion does not only relate to a form but also relate to meaning and the reader can avoid the wrong interpretation to the text clarity and the message send by it. Thus, the writer wants to know what the discourse elements and writes down a study entitle of *A Discourse Analysis of The Girls in their Summer Dresses' Short Story by Irwin Shaw*.

Based on phenomena background, the problems of the study are follows: (1) What are the types of elements of textuality found in the short story by Irwin Shaw?, (2)What are the meaning of the types of elements of textuality found in the short story by Irwin Shaw?

## **B. RESEARCH METHOD**

The type of this study is descriptive qualitative research, because it describes the seven criteria of textuality and that within consisting of cohesion, coherent, intentionality, acceptability, informatively, situationality, and intertextuality used discourse analysis in *The Girls in Their Summer Dresses*' short story.. According Sellger (1989:117) states, descriptive research is type of research to identification which utilizes exciting data and phenomenon with preconceive hypothesis.

The object of this study is the discourse form in the kind of short story. The data of this study uses library data, which are classified into two categories: (1) primary data source, the primary data source is written form words, phrases, clauses and sentences that are taken from the narration text of the short story. (2) Secondary data source, the secondary data source is taken from the short story of *The Girls in Their Summer Dresses* by Irwin Shaw.

The technique of the data analysis is descriptive. It means that the writer interprets the text and content to get the needed data. It is conducted as the following procedure that is identifying the elements which are configuring the discourse of short story, the writer refers to de Beaugrande's theory of seven criteria of textuality.

## C. DISCUSSION OF THE FINDING

A short story can be said to be a discourse, it should apply the seven criteria of textuality. The seven criteria of textuality that has been found by the writer in the short story *The Girl in Their Summer Dresses* such as cohesion, coherence, intentionality, acceptability, informatively, situationality, and intertextuality.

The writer lists the seven criteria of textuality based on theory of de Beaugrande (1981). The criteria are cohesion, coherence, intentionality, acceptability, informatively, situationality, intertextuality.

### 1. Cohesion Devices

The cohesive devices in the short story of *The Girl in Their Summer Dresses* include:

#### a. Reference

In the short story of *The Girl in Their Summer Dresses* reference includes anaphoric reference and cataphoric reference.

##### 1) Anaphoric Reference

In this short story the writer found the examples of anaphoric reference that is:

##### They (Par. 2)

**Michael held Frances' arm tightly... they had slept late...  
(Line 5)**

In paragraph, the word *they* ties with the noun *Michael and Frances* in the sentence. The form of the word *they* refers backward to the noun *Michael and Frances*, so this is called anaphoric reference relationship. The word *they* is closest in meaning to the noun *Michael and Frances* and the word *they* is mentioned after the noun *Michael and Frances*.

##### 2) Cataphoric Reference

The examples of cataphoric reference in this research is described as follows:

### **They (Par. 1)**

...**they** left the Brevoort... (Line 1)

**Michael held Frances'** arm tightly... (Line 5)

The word *they* sticks with the noun *Michael and Frances* in the sentence. The form of the word *they* refers forward to the noun *Michael and Frances*, so this is called cataphoric reference relationship. The word *they* is closest in meaning to *Michael and Frances* and *they* is mentioned before the noun *Michael and Frances*.

### **b. Substitution**

In the short story of *The Girl in Their Summer Dresses* substitution includes nominal substitution, verbal substitution, and clause substitution.

#### **1) Nominal Substitution**

The example of nominal substitution in this short story is as follow:

### **The same (Par. 38)**

...that's **the way** you looked at me... (Line 80)

"The **same** look... (Line 84)

The noun *same* substitutes of the noun *the way*, because the meaning of *same* is the same as the noun that is *the way*.

#### **2) Verbal Substitution**

The example of verbal substitution in this short story is as follow:

### **Do (Par. 47)**

"You **look at them as though you want them**... (Line 102)

...I don't **do** anything... (Line 105)

The single verb *do* substitutes with verb phrase that is *look at them as though you want them*.

#### **3) Clause Substitution**

The example of clausal substitution in this short story is as follow:

### **Not (Par. 21)**

"**That's the program** ... "Or maybe you'd **just rather walk up and down Fifth Avenue.**"

"No," Michael said. "**Not** at all " (Line 46)

The word of *not* substitutes for the clause either *that's not the program* or *walk up and down Fifth Avenue*.

### c. Ellipsis

In the short story of *The Girl in Their Summer Dresses* ellipsis includes nominal ellipsis, verbal ellipsis, and clause ellipsis.

#### 1) Nominal Ellipsis

The example of nominal ellipsis in this short story is as follow:

##### Go ahead (O) (Par. 61)

He finished his drink. "That's **the story**." (Line 145)

"**Go ahead (O)**," Frances said. (Line 138)

The omission after the noun *go ahead* that is the noun *the story* which to make the sentence easier to understand.

#### 2) Verbal Ellipsis

The example of verbal ellipsis in this short story is as follow:

##### And (O) (Par. 48)

... **speaking** softly **and (O)** not to his wife... (Line 104)

The elimination after the word *and (O)* that is the verb *speaking* which to make the sentence simpler.

#### 3) Clause Ellipsis

The example of clausal ellipsis in this short story is as follow:

##### Correct (O) (Par. 46)

"**I look at women**," he said. "**Correct (O)**..." (Line 98)

The elimination after the word *correct* that is the clause *that I look at women* which to make the sentence simpler.

### d. Conjunction

In the short story of *The Girl in Their Summer Dresses* conjunction includes additive conjunction, clausal conjunction, temporal conjunction, and adversative conjunction.

#### 1) Additive Conjunction

There is an example of data found in additive conjunction of the short story is as follows:

##### And, and, and (Par. 1)

...February, **and (1)** everything looked like Sunday morning-  
- the buses **and (2)** the well-dressed people...in couples **and (3)** the quiet buildings..(Line 2)



The conjunction *and* (1) is used to combine the noun *February* and *everything*. *And* (2) is used to combine the noun *the buses* and *the well-dressed people*. *And* (3) is used to combine the noun *the well-dressed people* and *the quiet building*.

## 2) Causal Conjunction

The example of causal conjunction in this short story is as follow:

### Because (Par. 2)

...They walked lightly, almost smiling, **because** they had slept late and had a good breakfast... (Line 6)

The conjunction *because* is used to declare a causal relationship. In that paragraph, the cause is *they had slept late and had a good breakfast* and the effect is *they walked lightly, almost smiling*.

## 3) Temporal Conjunction

There is an example of data found in temporal conjunction of this short story is as follows:

### Toward (Par. 8)

Frances pulled him along a little faster **toward** Washington Square... (Line 17)

The conjunction *toward* is used to connect the event between the subordinate clause *toward Washington Square* and the main clause *Frances pulled him along a little faster*.

## 4) Adversative Conjunction

There is an example of data found in adversative conjunction, the Data analysis in this short story is as follow:

### Even though (Par. 1)

...The sun was warm, **even though** it was February... (Line 2)

The conjunction *even though* is used to connect the contradiction between the subordinate clause *even though it was February* and the main clause *the sun was warm*.

#### e. Lexical Cohesion

In this short story the writer found the examples of lexical cohesion that is:

##### 1) Reiteration

Reiteration is divided into:

###### a) Repetition

There is an example of data found in repetition of the short story is as follow:

###### **The sun, and (Par. 1)**

...**the sun (1a)** when they left... **The sun (1b)** was warm...**and (2a)** everything ...the buses **and (2b)** the well-dressed... in couples **and (2c)**... **(Line 2)**

The noun *the sun (1a)* stresses the repetition of the noun *the sun (1b)*. The word *and (2a)* stresses the repetition of the word *and (2b)*, *and (2c)*.

###### b) Synonymy

There is an example of data found in repetition of this short story is as follow:

###### **A program, a planned (Par. 16)**

... **a program,**” Frances said. “**A planned ... (Line 32)**

The synonymy of the noun *a program* is used to comprehend of the similarity with the noun *a planned*.

###### c) Hyponymy

The example of hyponymy in this short story is as follow:

###### **The girls in the offices (Par. 60)**

“I like **the girls in the offices. Neat, with their eyeglasses, smart, chipper, knowing what everything is about...** (Line 131)

*The girls in the offices* is hyponymy with the noun *Neat, with their eyeglasses, smart, chipper, knowing what everything is about*, because the noun *The girls in the offices* is the group of the noun *Neat, with their eyeglasses, smart, chipper, knowing what everything is about*.

#### d) Metonymy

The example of metonymy in this short story is as follow:

##### **Seven blocks (Par. 53)**

...everything all concentrated from all over the world into **seven blocks—the best furs, the best clothes, the handsomest women...** (Line 117)

*Seven blocks* is metonymy with the noun *the best furs, the best clothes, the handsomest women from all over the world* because *seven blocks* is the generally word.

#### e) Antonym

The example of antonym in this short story is as follow:

##### **Women, men (Par. 23)**

...I look at **women** and **men** in subway excavations... (Line 50)

The antonym of the word *women* is used to compare with the word *men*.

#### 2) Collocation

The example of collocation in this short story *The Girls in Their Summer Dresses* is as follows:

##### **The Metropolitan Museum of Art (Par. 18)**

...**the Metropolitan Museum of Art,**... to **Radio City**, and watch them skate. And later we'll go down to **Cavanagh's** and get a **steak as big as a blacksmith's apron**, with a **bottle of wine**, and after that there's a **French picture at the Filmarte...** (Line 35)

The term of *the Metropolitan Museum of Art* is collocated with the noun *Ten pictures, Radio City, Cavanagh's, steak as big as a blacksmith's apron, a bottle of wine, French picture at the Filmarte*.

#### 2. Coherence

This short story uses the coherent that is suitable to the context of the story. This short story tells how a nice morning in a short time into a fight between Michael and France.

The first conflict began in which Michael started looking at another woman who passed him speech regardless of France all the way on Fifth Avenue. Michael

considers it reasonable because Michael was given eyes by God and can see everything in the world and France still can forgive, as long as Michael did not go too far from her. But when they told me about a woman in the Alice's house, France has begun to upset the fact that Michael was just admiring woman with the green hat and France can conclude that Michael just admire the physical beauty of other women and erotic.

Although at first they appear as the ideal couple to their conversation but, they reveal their marriage is in trouble. In five years the couple will no longer together.

The beauty of this story lies in the first paragraph: "The sun was warm, even though it was February, and everything looked like Sunday morning." It was very warm, with the sun shining down on Fifth Avenue. Everything seemed quiet and calm on the outside, but in reality it is not as warm and quiet as the relationship between Michael and France.

### **3. Intentionality**

The intentionality in the short story is to explain "the relationship among Michael and Frances". The writer elaborate Michael and Frances is a married couple for five years.

Michael's actions can be considered the cause for conflict. His wondering eye gets him to look to look several of women in the New York and he is essentially polygamous. The character of Frances can be realized in simple word that is woman being a nagging, intimacy and is essentially monogamous. The similarities between Frances and Michael are not so much their similarities of personality, but their actions and ways of avoiding and skipping the conversation about the situation that they are in.

By describing "the relationship among Michael and Frances" the author expect the readers get learning from Michael and Frances that this story as a study of two people. One wants to be monogamous or the other wants to be polygamous.

### **4. Acceptability**

Acceptability requires that a sequence of sentences can be acceptable to the intended audience in order to qualify as a text. The sequence of sentence in *The*

*Girls in Their Summer Dresses* is acceptable to the young audience, because both form and the meaning of all sentences used in the short story are acceptable.

This short story is acceptable to the readers in aspects of love, because love topic is usually interest the reader especially to the young reader. The next aspect is the author used only simple English and non verbal so it makes the short story easy to be understood and imaged by the readers.

## 5. Informatively

This short story uses the information that is suitable to the context of the story. For example:

### (Par. 83)

...about **how pretty this woman** is or that one. **Nice eyes, nice breasts, a pretty figure, good voice...** (Line 178)

### (Par. 90)

...Michael watched **her walk, thinking what a pretty girl, what nice legs.** (Line 190)

This paragraph are in line with the message in the story in which the short story can give new information that Michael's way of looking on women is from the bodies or physical and mere a kind of degradation to define a woman only as an erotic or sexual figure.

## 6. Situationality

Situationality is essential to textuality. So, it is important to consider the situation in which the text has produced and deal with.

The short story about a married couple attempts to have a pleasant Sunday until the conversation keeps turning to the husband habit of looking at other women. The situation used in this short story are mostly at a mild February Sunday morning in New York on Fifth Avenue after breakfast. Sunday is a free day for most workers, and the location is a good place for seeing well-dressed people. The author uses a clear nice day in New York City for setting, and as the story the setting shifts to the crowded benches, under the scrubby city-park trees, and the story ends in a bar.

## 7. Intertextuality

The sequence of sentences or paragraphs is connected by a certain form and meaning of intertextuality that makes the text always have relation to that in previous paragraphs or that in the next paragraphs as well as the relation among sentences in a paragraph and the relation among paragraphs in the text. *The Girl in Their Summer Dresses* uses various forms to show the intertextuality such as:

### **Darling (Par. 27)**

**Frances** leaned over and kissed him... (Line 30)

“**Darling**,” Michael said, “this is Fifth Avenue.”(Line 31)

“No, **darling**,” Michael said... (Line 49)

“Now listen, **darling**,” Mike said... (Line 58)

The word *darling* has a relation of intertextuality with the previous information that is the word *Frances*.

## D. CONCLUSION

In the short story, the seven criteria of textuality are used to make a discourse in this short story. The seven criteria of textuality are cohesion, coherence, intentionality, acceptability, informatively, situationality, and intertextuality. One of the seven criteria of textuality *The Girls in Their Summer Dresses* is the type of cohesion and frequency of the short story writer can infer the type of cohesion as below:

In this research, the writer found the type of cohesion devices used in this story such as anaphoric reference (37, 0%), cataphoric reference (19, 7%), nominal substitution (0, 5%), verbal substitution (0, 4%), clausal substitution (0, 4%), nominal ellipsis (0, 7%), verbal ellipsis (2, 7%), clausal ellipsis (0, 4%), additive conjunction (11, 5%), clausal conjunction (1, 0%), temporal conjunction (2, 2%), adversative conjunction (1, 1%), repetition (17, 0%), synonymy (1, 8%), hyponymy (0, 4%), metonymy` (0, 4%), antonym (0, 5%), and collocation (2, 4%).

The writer has compared the results often appear in this short story. One of the frequencies that often arise is the amount of anaphoric reference for 37, 0 %. The other seven criteria of textuality such as coherence, intentionality, acceptability, informatively, situationality, and intertextuality are used in this short story, so it is to make the message are clear.

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